

FEBRUARY 26, 2004

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

There will be a public hearing meeting of the **Law Enforcement & Corrections Committee** of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County on **Thursday, March 4, 2004** at the hour of **10:30 AM** in the Board Room, Room 569, County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois to consider the following:

263772 AN ORDINANCE CREATING AN EMPLOYMENT DEMONSTRATION PILOT PROJECT FOR FIRST TIME NONVIOLENT OFFENDERS ENTITLED "THE COOK COUNTY RE-ENTRY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT" (PROPOSED ORDINANCE). Submitting a Proposed Ordinance sponsored by Bobbie L. Steele and Roberto Maldonado, County Commissioners; Co-Sponsored by Jerry Butler, Earlean Collins, Elizabeth Ann Doody Gorman, Gregg Goslin, Carl R. Hansen, Joseph Mario Moreno, Joan Patricia Murphy, Anthony J. Peraica, Mike Quigley, Peter N. Silvestri, Deborah Sims and Larry Suffredin, County Commissioners.

The following is a synopsis of the Proposed Ordinance.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING AN EMPLOYMENT DEMONSTRATION
PILOT PROJECT FOR FIRST TIME NONVIOLENT OFFENDERS ENTITLED
"THE COOK COUNTY RE-ENTRY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT"**

WHEREAS, Illinois has the ninth largest prison system in the United States; and

WHEREAS, there are currently almost 44,000 individuals incarcerated by the Illinois Department of Corrections with an additional 35,000 under the Department's supervision in the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 30,000 inmates scheduled to be released from IDOC institutions this year with more than 60% returning to Cook County; and this year with more than 60% returning to Cook County; and

WHEREAS, currently there is a 44% recidivism rate for former offenders released from state correctional facilities in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, access to livable wage employment has proven to be a key factor in reducing the re-commission of crime and the rate of recidivism; and

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WHEREAS, the unemployment rate among former incarcerated individuals who are county residents is higher than the general population in large part due to the social stigma of being an ex-offender, unfair employment discrimination, and the lack of access to legal employment opportunities, education and vocational training within sectors of government and private industry due to current policies; and

WHEREAS, government should be an exemplar to private industry in regards to providing equal opportunity for qualified individuals seeking employment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners shall enact the following ordinance to establish and implement a Re-entry Employment Demonstration Pilot Program for 150 adults and 50 youth who are former offenders and residents of the County to facilitate more access to Cook County government employment opportunities and positions with private sector employers who secure contracts from Cook County as a strategy for increasing public safety and reducing recidivism.

ARTICLE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE II. DEFINITIONS

ARTICLE III. THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF REVIEW PANEL

ARTICLE IV. COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' PARTICIPATION

ARTICLE V. CATEGORIES OF SELECTED COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND ELIGIBILITY FACTORS

ARTICLE VI. LEGAL IMPACT OF COUNTY ISSUED CERTIFICATE OF GOOD CONDUCT AND REHABILITATION

ARTICLE VII. REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATE OF GOOD CONDUCT AND REHABILITATION

ARTICLE VIII. FORMS AND FILING

***Referred to the Committee on Law Enforcement & Corrections on 2/3/04.**

Michelle Harris, Secretary

Chairman: Maldonado
Vice-Chairman: Silvestri
Members: Butler, Gorman, Moreno, Peraica, Quigley